This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1.   (currently amended)   A method for transmitting control information between a line-switching and a packet-switching communications network, comprising the steps of:

converting user data signaling messages into signaling packets that~~which~~ are used ~~in~~ between the line-switching network ~~and contain~~containing control information ~~into signaling packets which are used in~~and the packet-switching communications network ~~and contain~~containing control information~~, and/or vice versa~~;

setting up a signaling connection for transmitting signaling packets, which form connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network, in the packet-switching network in order to use the at least one service feature of the line-switching communications network in the packet-switching communications network by means of the control information, independently of the connection.

Claim 2.   (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of integrating the at least one control information item which relates to a service feature in the line-switching communications network into at least one signaling packet which initiates the setting up of a signaling connection.

Claim 3.   (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of acknowledging the reception of the at least one signaling packet (H.225 SETUP) which initiates the setting up of a signaling connection.

Claim 4.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of, claims 1, 2, or 3~~claim 1 ~~characterized in that the step of setting up of~~ further comprising terminating a signaling

connection ~~is initiated~~ after receiving an acknowledgement, after a defined time interval has passed, or after a defined number of signaling packets have been transmitted.

Claim 5.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-5~~claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein the use of the at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network relates to the control or request, or activation or deactivation, or status check or notification relating to the status thereof.

Claim 6.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-5~~claim 2, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein a data block for the at least one control information item which is to be transmitted and is independent of the user connection is provided within the at least one signaling packet.

Claim 7.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-5~~claim 2, further ~~characterized in that~~wherein specific parameters for the at least one control information item which is to be transmitted and is independent of the user connection are defined within the at least one signaling packet.

Claim 8.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein IP-based protocols are used for transmitting the signaling packets in the packet-switching communication network.

Claim 9.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-8~~claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein a signaling message which is used in the line-switching communications network and contains control information is represented by a DSS1 message.

Claim 10.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-9~~claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein a signaling packet which is used in the packet-switching network and contains control information is represented by an H.225 message.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-10~~claim 10, ~~further characterized in that~~wherein a standard DSS1 REGISTER message or a standard DSS1 NOTIFY or DSS1 FACILITY message is integrated with a DUMMY CALL REFERENCE in an H.225 SETUP message.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A control unit for conversion of <u>user data</u> signaling messages ~~which are~~ used ~~in~~ between a line-switching communications network ~~and contain~~containing control information, to signaling packets ~~which are~~used in a packet-switching communications network ~~and contain~~containing control information, ~~and/or vice versa~~, the control unit is arranged at the transmitter ~~and/or~~or receiver end of a signaling connection which is set up in the packet-switching communications network for transmitting signaling packets, and having a module for integration ~~and/or~~and extraction of connection-independent control information, which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network, into ~~and/or~~and out of the signaling packets to be transmitted.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A communication device arranged in a line-switching communications network, the communication device comprising a module for integration ~~and/or~~and for extraction of connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network into ~~and/or~~and out of <u>user data</u> signaling packets to be transmitted.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A communications terminal, arranged in a packet-switching communications network, the communications terminal comprising a module for integration ~~and/or~~and for extraction of connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network into and/or out of <u>user data</u> signaling packets to be transmitted.